

mens are of this dark coloration, rufo- or castaneo-testaceous, with the cuneus bright red and the hind tibiæ dark.

In the general collection at the British Museum, standing under the name *M. infusum*, there are specimens from Austria which were in Dr. Eger's collection, and still carry his labels bearing the name *M. infusum*: but as they are strongly pilose, they clearly belong to *M. beckeri*: one is pale and appears to represent the var. *lethierryi*, Fieb., of which I have seen an authentic specimen from Mr. Champion's collection, and the other is dark like the Weybridge and Oxshott examples.

Mr. Donisthorpe tells me that his captures were all made from fir trees, at the foot of which in each case there was a nest of the ant *Formica rufa*, while no specimens were found on trees not so accompanied; and he considers that, like *Pilophorus*, which occurred with it, the bug may have some sort of association with the ant. Reuter gives as the habitat of *M. beckeri*, -*Ulmus*, etc.; but what the "etc." covers nowhere appears, though it may, perhaps, include fir-trees. *M. infusum* is with us most commonly found on oaks, but it is recorded on the Continent from fir-trees also, and in the light of Dr. Eger's specimens mentioned above, the question naturally arises whether these fir-tree specimens may not, after all, have been *M. beckeri*. On the continent, *M. beckeri* occurs in France, Italy, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Greece, and S. Russia, and it appears to be rather more southern in its distribution than *M. infusum*.

I am much indebted to Mr. Donisthorpe for kindly placing three of his captures at my disposal.

New species of *Aristotelia* and *Micropteryx*.

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ARISTOTELIA, Hb.

2894.1. *Aristotelia alettris*, sp. n.

Antennae distinctly annulate alternately with yellowish white and fuscous. *Palpi* whitish, the median joint with a fuscous band before the apex, broader on the outer than on the inner side; the terminal joint with a narrower fuscous band around it before the apex. *Head* and *Thorax* mealy whitish, dusted with fuscous. *Forewings* mealy whitish, profusely dusted with fuscous, except on a terminal band wide on the costa, curved and narrowed to the tornus where it ends in a fuscous spot; there is a pale yellow outwardly curved fascia on the basal fourth widening toward the dorsum, a pale yellow patch at the middle of the dorsum rising to a little above the fold, and another pale yellow patch above the fuscous tornal spot, rising toward the costa at the end of the cell, but not reaching it; cilia mealy white, profusely dusted with fuscous, except at their outer extremities about the tornus. *Exp. al.* 6.5mm. *Hindwings* and cilia shining steel-grey. *Abdomen* fuscous above, whitish beneath. *Legs* whitish, speckled with fuscous at the joints.

Type ♀ (95976). Mus. Wlsm. B.M.

Hab. SICILY: Syracuse, 26, iv., 1918 (Wlsm.). Unique.

Allied to *epfelsheimi*, Stgr., but smaller and much less brightly coloured, moreover, the bright yellow fascia in *epfelsheimi* is straight,

not curved outward as in *aletris* where it bends inward nearly to the tornus.

MICROPTERYX, Hb.

4776-1. *Micropteryx corcyrella*, sp. n.

Antennae fuscous. *Palpi* shining steel-grey. *Head* ochreous. *Thorax* purplish fuscous. *Forewings* shining aeneous, with a purplish tinge along the costa and around the termen; with two bright silvery fasciae, the first at one-fifth of the wing-length, the second about the middle, tending very obliquely outward from costa to dorsum—each of these two fasciae is about half as wide as the space between them; beyond the outer fascia, half-way to the apex, is an inverted shining silvery patch, at least as wide as the fasciae themselves, and reaching about half across the wing; cilia bronzy-grey, with a slight purplish sheen along their base. *Exp. al.* 6.5mm. *Hindwings* shining bronzy, darker than the aeneous forewings; cilia bronzy-grey. *Abdomen* and *Legs* shining bronzy; ♂ genitalia strongly developed.

Type ♂ (85380), Mus. Wlsm. **B.M.**

Hab. CORFU: Palaeocastrizza, 1872 (Wlsm.) Three specimens (all ♂ s).

Allied to *berytella*, Joann., but differing in the absence of a dorsal spot beyond the middle and of the costal spot before the apex, nor is there any costal spot between the fasciae, moreover, the fasciae are broader and more conspicuous.

4778-2. *Micropteryx ertella*, sp. n.

Antennae fuscous. *Palpi* shining pale aeneous. *Head* pale aeneous. *Thorax* aeneous; tegulae bright purple, which colour, however, does not extend to the base of the forewings as in *calthella*, L. *Forewings* shining aeneous, with an oblong silvery white costal spot at one-fifth from the base, not reaching beyond the upper edge of the cell, its extension lateral, not perpendicular: an outwardly curved, almost angulate, silvery fascia at about the middle reaches the dorsum at a point further removed from the base than its origin on the costa; pointing inward toward the middle of this fascia is a broader silvery costal patch, extending over half the breadth of the wing—these are the only markings in the ♂, and they occur also in the ♀, thus differing from *aruncella*, Scp.—the curved fascia separates it from *eximiella*, Z.; cilia pale fuscous with a brassy sheen. *Exp. al.* ♂ 7mm., ♀ 6mm. *Hindwings* pale fuscous with brassy sheen; cilia the same, but duller (more purplish) toward the wing-base. *Abdomen* fuscous above, shining steel-grey beneath. *Legs*, hind tibiae fuscous, tarsi paler.

Type ♂ (); ♀ (). Mus. Wlsm. **B.M.**

Hab. SICILY: Monte Pellegrino, Palermo, 13-23, iii., 1918 (Wlsm.). Ten specimens (8 ♂ s, 2 ♀ s).

The ancient Latin name of Monte Pellegrino was *Erceta*.

4778-3. *Micropteryx uxoria*, sp. n.

Antennae fuscous. *Palpi* cinereous. *Head* clothed with yellowish hair-scales. *Thorax* bronzy; tegulae rich purple. *Forewings* greenish brassy, with two complete silvery fasciae and an inverted costal patch; the first fascia straight, at about one-fifth from the base; the second fascia, leaving the costa at about the middle, is sometimes slightly

convex, but usually straight and diverging a little toward the dorsum, which it reaches scarcely beyond the middle; the costal patch, equidistant between the second fascia and the apex, is inverted, and reaches half across the wing—these markings are conspicuous and of uniform width; cilia shining bronzy-grey. *Exp. al.* ♂ 7-8mm., ♀ 8-9mm. *Hindwings* shining bronzy; cilia bronzy-grey. *Abdomen* greyish fuscous; genital segments of ♂ strongly developed. *Legs* pale greyish fuscous.

Type ♂ (95987), ♀ (95988). Mus. Wlsm. B.M.

Hab. SICILY: Taormina, 1-3, v., 1918 (*Wlsm.*). Eight specimens (5 ♂ s, 3 ♀ s).

In the ♀ the markings are precisely similar, but there is a slight silvery sheen at the extreme base of the dorsum; in neither sex is there any purplish colour at the base.

I have carefully compared these specimens with four in the Zeller Collection and one in the Stainton Collection—all original specimens of *eximiella*, Z., received from Mann and labelled "*Etrur.*" The average size of my species is certainly larger; I was at first inclined to regard them as that species, especially as Chrétien [*Le Naturaliste* 30 (2s. 2) 60 (1908)] has stated that the ♀ of *eximiella* has the same silvery bands and costal spots as the ♂, thus separating it at once from *aruncella*, Scp., and *seppella*, F., but it must be remembered that this discovery refers to specimens taken at Digne, which may possibly have been wrongly identified. I have a ♀ (81721) from Rome (iv., 1893, *Wlsm.*) which has no markings, but it was taken there at the same time as *eximiella* ♂, and is certainly smaller than *calthella*, L., and has no violet at the base of the forewings.

The Sicilian specimens differ from the Tuscan, as well as from Zeller's description, in the following points: first, there is no violet tinge at the base of the forewings in the ♂; secondly, no reddish tinge along the costa; and thirdly, it is observable in all the specimens of *eximiella* that the first fascia stops slightly before reaching the costa, whereas in *uxoria* it distinctly reaches it in all instances.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS.

FOOD-PLANT, AND REARING, OF *HYDROECIA CRINANENSIS*.—A few days since I received from Mr. L. A. E. Sabine thirteen magnificent bred specimens of a *Hydroecia*, which he suggested were probably *H. crinanensis*. Having examined the genitalia I found that his guess was correct. In response to my request he has kindly supplied me with the following details of his discovery, which, with his consent, I now publish, as far as possible (because of space limitation), in his own words:—

"On June 22nd this year I noticed a plant of 'Yellow Flag' (*Iris pseudacoris*) which had the central leaf of one of its main shoots slightly withered. I, of course, investigated, and found that a larva had been feeding in the stem, but had departed. I thereupon decided to make a thorough search for other affected plants, and after examining a few more was rewarded by discovering a larva about two-thirds grown. After an afternoon's hard working I had seventeen larvæ, varying in size from half to full grown, but only two of the larger size. In every case the larva was found feeding in the shoots which